

LLCS/bm

Pavia, November 13, 1961

ISTITUTO DI GENETICA
UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA
VIA SANT'EPIFANIO, 14
PAVIA

Prof. Joshua Lederberg
Stanford University
Medical Center
Department of Genetics
P a l o A l t o, California

Dear Joshua,

we are struggling with F yeast and are making some small progress in separating the active compound from toxic and inactive compound. So far it goes very slowly but it takes good luck to find the right procedure.

I hope you have met Giovanni and had a good talk with him.

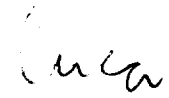
I have sent under separate cover a record on the transmissions from Russian satellites which was taken by two amateurs in Turin. Perhaps similar things are available also in the States but, if not, you might be interested by it. There is some lengthy talk in Italian but the essence is as follows: on side one there are recordings of Russian satellites and of the first American satellite, including a Morse transmission which was claimed to be an S.O.S. to all the world. The last recording on the first side is perhaps the most impressive. The professor of Surgery of Turin believes one can recognize heart-beats and a deep and irregular breathing, lasting sometime for several seconds. It is of course unknown if

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it is of human origin. On side two is recorded a Russian voice, believed to be Gagarin's. Only one side of the conversation is heard; it is possible that this is the conversation which was translated in the newspapers but the tone does not seem to correspond to the official kind of speeches that were reported. Anyhow I know no Russian here who could translate it.

We are now programming a research on progeny of consanguineous people. We hope to study some two thousand couples and the same number of controls, but it will take some time. I have been considering for a while taking IQ's and we may do it unless it turns out to be too impractical and expensive. If you have any suggestion, let me know.

All the best to you and Esther



L.L. Cavalli-Sforza